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l1 and (((transmit\$ or updat\$) with inventor\$) and (search\$ and order\$))	4

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 DATE: Thursday, August 15, 2002 [Printable Copy](#) [Create Case](#)
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DB=USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR

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l1 and (((transmit\$ or updat\$) with inventor\$) and (search\$ and order\$))

4

L3L2

((transmit\$ or updat\$) with inventor\$) and (search\$ and order\$)

595

L2L14992940.pn. or 5940807.pn. or 6009413.pn. or 6014644.pn. or
6023683.pn. or 6055516.pn. or 6081789.pn.

7

L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

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Terms	Documents
L2 and (approv\$ with order\$)	0

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Search History

DATE: Friday, August 16, 2002 [Printable Copy](#) [Create Case](#)

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result set

DB=USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR

	<u>L17</u>	L2 and (approv\$ with order\$)	0	<u>L17</u>
	<u>L16</u>	L2 and ((hold\$ or reserv\$) with (product\$ or item\$))	0	<u>L16</u>
	<u>L15</u>	L2 and ((many or multi\$ or batch\$) with command\$)	0	<u>L15</u>
	<u>L14</u>	L2 and ((many or multi\$) with command)	0	<u>L14</u>
	<u>L13</u>	L2 and (batch\$ with file)	0	<u>L13</u>
reviewed	<u>L12</u>	L2 and (inform\$ with (present\$ or current\$ or place\$) with (purchas\$ or buy\$ or order\$))	4	<u>L12</u>
	<u>L11</u>	L2 and (order\$)	7	<u>L11</u>
	<u>L10</u>	L2 and (current\$ with order\$)	1	<u>L10</u>
	<u>L9</u>	L2 and (inform\$ with current\$ with order\$)	0	<u>L9</u>
	<u>L8</u>	L5 and (order\$)	1	<u>L8</u>
	<u>L7</u>	L5 and (current\$ with order\$)	1	<u>L7</u>
	<u>L6</u>	L5 and (inform\$ with current\$ with order\$)	0	<u>L6</u>
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reviewed	<u>L4</u>	L2 and ((rain\$ or raincheck\$) or (hold\$ with item\$))	0	<u>L4</u>
	<u>L3</u>	L2 and ((rain!check\$ or raincheck\$) or (hold\$ with item\$))	7	<u>L3</u>
	<u>L2</u>	(4992940.pn. or 5940807.pn. or 6009413.pn. or 6014644.pn. or 6023683.pn. or 6055516.pn. or 6081789.pn.)	7	<u>L2</u>
considered	<u>L1</u>	(4992940.pn. or 5940807.pn. or 6009413.pn. or 6014644.pn. or 6023683.pn. or 6055516.pn. or 6081789.pn.) and ((rain!check\$ or raincheck\$) or (hold with item\$))	7	<u>L1</u>

END OF SEARCH HISTORY



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L12: Entry 1 of 4

File: USPT

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6081789 A

TITLE: Automated and independently accessible inventory information exchange system

US PATENT NO. (1):
6081789

Brief Summary Text (15):

In reviewing the above needs of purchasers and sellers, as well as the known systems that are presently available for their transactions, the need for an improved means for exchanging product and service information between parties has been recognized and resolved through the use of the present invention.

Detailed Description Text (6):

In one embodiment of the invention, purchasers may place an order with the host or administrator of the system who later conveys the information to an appropriate seller. Alternatively, the purchaser may place an order directly with a specific seller based on either product criteria or seller's identification, if that is made available. In any event, both sellers and purchasers may access their sides of the system at any time; sellers may manipulate and change their inventory information and buyers may review an updated product listing that is maintained and updated on a substantially continuous basis.

Detailed Description Text (10):

The buyers will typically view the administrator of the system as a sole provider of the listed products and services, and not a representative of the plurality of sellers. In this way, the host acts as a clearing house through which information is collected from sellers and then displayed for buyers who can then place orders through the system. The administrator may

Detailed Description Text (11):

then order appropriate product and service corresponding to the buyers' requirements. In an alternative embodiment, it is anticipated that the buyers may place orders directly with the sellers and that the host receives a commission or fee for providing the information exchange service.



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L1: Entry 1 of 7

File: USPT

Jun 27, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6081789

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6081789 A

TITLE: Automated and independently accessible inventory information exchange system

DATE-ISSUED: June 27, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Purcell; Daniel S.	Amarillo	TX	79106-1928	

APPL-NO: 09/ 227723 [PALM]

DATE FILED: January 8, 1999

PARENT-CASE:

RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS This patent application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/864314 filed May 28, 1997 entitled AUTOMATED AND INDEPENDENTLY ACCESSIBLE INVENTORY INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM now U.S. Pat. No. 5,940,807 which is a continuation of International Patent Application No. PCT/US97/08750 filed May 27, 1997, published under International Publication No. WO 97/44749 on Nov. 27, 1997 and entitled AUTOMATED AND INDEPENDENTLY ACCESSIBLE INVENTORY INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM which claims the benefit of United States Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/018,293 filed May 24, 1996 and also entitled AUTOMATED AND INDEPENDENTLY ACCESSIBLE INVENTORY INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM; each of said applications in their entirety are hereby expressly incorporated by reference into the present application.

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/37; 705/26, 705/28, 707/100, 707/101, 707/104

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37; 705/26, 705/28, 707/100, 707/101, 707/104.1

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 348/13, 705/26, 705/27, 705/28, 705/37, 707/7, 707/100, 707/101, 707/104

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	4903201	February 1990	Wagner	705/37
<input type="checkbox"/>	4980826	December 1990	Wagner	705/37
<input type="checkbox"/>	5168446	December 1992	Wiseman	705/37
<input type="checkbox"/>	5297031	March 1994	Guttermann et al.	705/37
<input type="checkbox"/>	5915209	June 1999	Lawrence	455/31.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	5940807	August 1999	Purcell	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	6014643	January 2000	Minton	705/37

ART-UNIT: 271

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Cosimano; Edward R.

ABSTRACT:

A method for exchanging information between providers and users of products and services in which an information management system is established that is computer based and has information processing and storage capabilities. The system also has electronic communication connections that permit buyers and sellers to electronically connect with the information management system for information exchange. Limited electronic access to the information management system is granted to approved sellers of products and services. After approval, each such seller is enabled to access inventory information of that seller for amendment purposes. Similarly, limited electronic access to the information management system is granted to approved buyers of products and services and are provided a searching capability to search a compilation of a plurality of seller's inventory information using criteria specified by that approved buyer. Last, a buyer's listing of products and services is compiled from the compilation of the seller's inventory information for that buyer based on that buyer's search criteria and in which duplicate inventory items are removed therefrom.

11 Claims, 3 Drawing figures



Generate Collection

Print

L1: Entry 2 of 7

File: USPT

Apr 25, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6055516

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6055516 A

TITLE: Electronic sourcing system

DATE-ISSUED: April 25, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Johnson; James M.	Bridgeville	PA		
Kinross; Robert P.	Ben Avon	PA		
Melly; Francis J.	Pittsburgh	PA		
Momyer; Douglas A.	Upper St. Clair	PA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Procurenent, Inc.	Fairfield	NJ			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 234366 [PALM]

DATE FILED: January 20, 1999

PARENT-CASE:

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 08/288,577 filed on Aug. 10, 1994.

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/27; 705/26, 701/1, 701/10, 701/104

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/27; 701/1, 701/10, 701/104, 705/26

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/1, 705/26, 705/27, 707/1, 707/10, 707/100, 707/104

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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PAT-NO	ISS-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/> 4135241	January 1979	Stanis et al.	364/200
<input type="checkbox"/> 4141078	February 1979	Bridges, Jr. et al.	364/900
<input type="checkbox"/> 4336589	June 1982	Smith et al.	364/403
<input type="checkbox"/> 4509123	April 1985	Vereen	364/300
<input type="checkbox"/> 4636950	January 1987	Caswell et al.	364/403
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<input type="checkbox"/> 5758327	May 1998	Gardner et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/> 5778355	July 1998	Boyer et al.	707/2
<input type="checkbox"/> 5799289	August 1998	Gukushima et al.	705/400

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	US-CL
0 697 669 A2	August 1995	EP	
WO 90/11572	October 1990	WO	

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European Search Report, Application No. 95 305364, Dated Aug. 2, 1997.
 "Texas Instruments Puts the MRO Buy On Line," Purchasing, p. 37, May 19, 1994.
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 "Easel Eases the Way to OO," Computer Select, Jun. 1994.
 "Stockclerk Inventory Management System" product information brochure, IOBar, Inc., 1993.
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 "Systems by Fisher/Inventory Management System/StockPro.RTM.--Single-User Version" user manual, pp. 6-1 to 6-14, 6-21 to 6-26, 7-1 to 7-18, 8-1 to 8-20, 9-1 to 9-6, and 10-1 to 10-8, Fisher Scientific Company, Feb. 28, 1989.
 "Fisher Scientific PurchasePro" user manual, version 1.1., Introduction pp. 1-6, File Editor pp. 1-12, Purchase Requisitions pp. 1-12, Purchase Orders pp. 1-8, 23, and 34, Vendor Quotes p. 1, Fastback Orders pp. 1-8, Reports p. 1, ReportPro p. 1, 1984.
 "Lightning.TM. Fisher's Electronic Order Entry System" brochure, Fisher Scientific Company, 1989.
 "Lightning.TM. Order Entry and Information System" user manual, pp. 1-6, 19-54, and 91-96, Fisher Scientific Company, 1990.
 "Fisher Reliance.TM. System" brochure, Fisher Scientific Company, 1989.
 "Fisher 88" catalog, pp. 1536, 1549-1567, Fisher Scientific Company, 1987.
 Excerpt from "A Prism Electronic Catalog Proposal: Product Information System for Sales and Marketing," prepared by Fisher Scientific Company, presented by MediaShare Corporation, Aug. 31, 1993.

ART-UNIT: 271

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Cosimano; Edward R.

ABSTRACT:

An electronic sourcing system includes a computer that maintains a catalog database of data including product information (such as product identification and descriptive information) relating to catalog items available from vendor product catalogs, and a means for building (generating) a requisition including at least one requisitioned item. Information at least partially identifying an item desired to be requisitioned is entered by a user, and utilized by a means for searching the database for catalog items matching that information and for selecting at least one catalog item located as a result of the search. Text describing the catalog items, and images of the items, may be viewed. Data identifying selected catalog items are communicated to the requisition building means, which generates a requisition including entries for items corresponding to the selected catalog items. The system checks the availability in one or more inventory locations of the corresponding desired catalog items, and generates one or more purchase orders for desired items from inventory locations stocking the items.

29 Claims, 5 Drawing figures



Generate Collection

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L1: Entry 3 of 7

File: USPT

Feb 8, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6023683

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6023683 A

TITLE: Electronic sourcing system and method

DATE-ISSUED: February 8, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Johnson; James M.	Bridgeville	PA		
Kinross; Robert P.	Ben Avon	PA		
Melly; Francis J.	Pittsburgh	PA		
Momyer; Douglas A.	Upper St. Clair	PA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Fisher Scientific Company	Pittsburgh	PA			02

APPL-NO: 08/ 288577 [PALM]

DATE FILED: August 10, 1994

INT-CL: [06] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/1, 705/28, 707/104

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/1, 705/28

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 395/226, 395/227, 395/235, 395/207, 395/210, 395/211, 705/26, 705/27, 705/35, 705/1, 705/28, 707/100, 707/104

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

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<input type="checkbox"/>	4141078	February 1979	Bridges, Jr. et al.	364/900
<input type="checkbox"/>	4336589	June 1982	Smith et al.	364/403
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<input type="checkbox"/>	4992940	February 1991	Dworkin	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	5038283	August 1991	Caveney	364/403
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<input type="checkbox"/>	5168445	December 1992	Kawashima et al.	364/403
<input type="checkbox"/>	5305199	April 1994	LoBiondo et al.	705/28
<input type="checkbox"/>	5319542	June 1994	King et al	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	5758327	May 1998	Gardner et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	5799289	August 1998	Fukushima et al.	705/400

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	US-CL
0 697 669 A2	August 1995	EP	
WO 90/11572	October 1990	WO	

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"Texas Instruments Puts the MRO Buy On Line," Purchasing, p. 37, May, 19, 1994.
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 "Grainger Electronic Catalog User's Guide," Edition 6, pp. 29-33, and 49-50, 1994.
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 "Aldrich Catalog on Disk Reference Manual," Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc., 1001

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 "Easel Eases the Way to OO," Computer Select, Jun. 1994.
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 "Systems By Fisher/Inventory Management System/STOCKPRO.TM.--Single-User" user manual, pp. 6-1 to 6-14, 6-21 to 6-26, 7-1 to 7-18, 8-1 to 8-20, 9-1 to 9-6, and 10-1 to 10-8, Fisher Scientific Company, Feb. 28, 1989.
 "Fisher Scientific PurchasePro" user manual, version 1.1, Introduction pp. 1-6, File Editors pp. 1-12, Purchase Requisitions pp. 1-12, Purchase Orders pp. 1-8, 23 and 34, Vendor Quotes p. 1, Fastback Orders pp. 1-8, Reports p. 1, ReportPro p. 1, 1984.
 "LIGHTNING.TM. Fisher's Electronic Order Entry System" brochure, Fisher Scientific Company, 1989.
 "LIGHTNING.TM. Order Entry and Information System" user manual, pp. 1-6, 19-54, and 91-96, Fisher Scientific Company, 1990.
 "Fisher Reliance.TM. System" brochure, Fisher Scientific Company, 1989.
 "Fisher 88" catalog, pp. 1536, 1549-1567, Fisher Scientific Company, 1987.
 "Black Box" system electronic catalog (no document enclosed).
 Excerpt from "A Prism Electronic Catalog Proposal: Product Information System For Sales and Marketing," prepared for Fisher Scientific Company, presented by MediaShare Corporation, Aug. 31, 1993.
 European Search Report, Application No. 95 305364, Dated Aug. 2, 1997.
 European Search Report, Application No. 95 305364, Dated Aug. 2, 1997.

ART-UNIT: 271

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Cosimano; Edward R.

ABSTRACT:

An electronic sourcing system includes a computer that maintains a catalog database of data including product information (such as product identification and descriptive information) relating to catalog items available from vendor product catalogs, and a means for building (generating) a requisition including at least one requisitioned item. Information at least partially identifying an item desired to be requisitioned is entered by a user, and utilized by a means for searching the database for catalog items matching that information and for selecting at least one catalog item located as a result of the search. Text describing the catalog items, and images of the items, may be viewed. Data identifying selected catalog items are communicated to the requisition building means, which generates a requisition including entries for items corresponding to the selected catalog items. The system checks the availability in one or more inventory locations of the corresponding desired catalog items, and generates one or more purchase orders for desired items from inventory locations stocking the items.

45 Claims, 5 Drawing figures



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L1: Entry 4 of 7

File: USPT

Jan 11, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6014644

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6014644 A

TITLE: Centrally coordinated communication systems with multiple broadcast data
objects and response tracking

DATE-ISSUED: January 11, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Erickson; Ranel E.	Henderson	NV		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
PP International, Inc.	Las Vegas	NV			02

APPL-NO: 08/ 755224 [PALM]

DATE FILED: November 22, 1996

INT-CL: [06] G06 F 7/00

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/37; 705/26, 705/27, 709/233

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37; 705/26, 705/27, 709/233

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/37, 705/26, 705/27, 395/200.33, 395/200.36, 395/200.47,
395/200.49, 395/200.57, 395/200.61

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	PAT-NO	ISS DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	3573747	April 1971	Adams et al.	340/154
<input type="checkbox"/>	4645873	February 1987	Chomet	379/93
<input type="checkbox"/>	4674044	June 1987	Kalmus et al.	705/37
<input type="checkbox"/>	4677552	June 1987	Sibley, Jr.	705/37
<input type="checkbox"/>	4799156	January 1989	Shavit et al.	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	4992940	February 1991	Dworkin	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	5050031	September 1991	Weiley	360/137
<input type="checkbox"/>	5230073	July 1993	Gausmann et al.	395/600
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<input type="checkbox"/>	5440479	August 1995	Hutton	364/401
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<input type="checkbox"/>	5924083	July 1999	Silverman et al.	705/37

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Product brochure for Microline, Inc..RTM.; The Revolutionary Way to Buy, Sell, and Support Multivendor Computer Hardware, printed in Canada.
Product brochure for Traders Online.SM. Interactive Image Databases; Bringing Buyers and Sellers Together.
Product brochure for serlver internet servers, inc.
Product brochure for TRADE'ex Electronic Commerce Systems, Inc.; Electronic Commerce Solutions for the Internet.
Product brochure for TRADE'ex Electronic Commerce Systems, Inc.; Putting the World of Computer Product Right at the Tip of Your Finger.
Product brochure for TRADE'ex Electronic Commerce Systems, Inc.; Market Maker.
Product brochure for TRADE'ex Electronic Commerce Systems, Inc.; Request for Quotation.

ART-UNIT: 277

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Peeso; Thomas R.

ABSTRACT:

A system and method for facilitating communication between a plurality of buyers a

plurality of suppliers is provided. The communication system provides for coordinated message and response tracking. Buyers and suppliers may submit information to a central database maintained by a service provider. Such information may comprise company profile and product information. Buyers may browse the database and assemble a list of suppliers who will receive a request for a bid. A broadcast message and various response tracking objects are assembled into a single message and response tracking object. The message and response tracking object serves as a central repository for all communications exchanged between the buyers and suppliers regarding the bid. The broadcast message is transferred to the suppliers on the supplier list and the suppliers respond with appropriate information. As responses are received, the information from the responses is assembled into the message and response tracking object. If necessary, reminders may be sent to suppliers that do not respond by a certain date. Information may then be extracted from the message and response tracking object and transferred to an analysis module for comparison and analysis of the responses.

25 Claims, 8 Drawing figures



Generate Collection

Print

L1: Entry 5 of 7

File: USPT

Dec 28, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 6009413

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6009413 A

TITLE: System for real time shopping

DATE-ISSUED: December 28, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Webber; John C.	Dublin	OH		
Gerard; Gregory S.	Columbus	OH		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
America Online, Inc.	Dulles	VA			02

APPL-NO: 08/ 971764 [PALM]

DATE FILED: November 17, 1997

PARENT-CASE:

This application is a file wrapper continuation of application Ser. No. 08/337,097 filed Nov. 10, 1994 now abandoned.

INT-CL: [06] G06 F 15/00

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/27, 705/20

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/20, 705/27

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 340/825.28, 235/380, 705/10, 705/26, 705/27, 705/20, 364/918.5, 395/712

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	4972504	November 1990	Daniel	364/403
<input type="checkbox"/>	5053956	October 1991	Donald	364/403
<input type="checkbox"/>	5088586	February 1992	Isobe	364/403
<input type="checkbox"/>	5451998	September 1995	Hamrick	364/403
<input type="checkbox"/>	5475585	December 1995	Bush	364/403
<input type="checkbox"/>	5528490	June 1996	Hill	364/403

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Richard Tompkins, The Financial Times (London) Jun. 9, 1994, at 20.
Brenda Lloyd, Sabre Offers EDI Expertise, Apparel Industry Magazine, (vol. 54, No. 10), at 47.
The Online Economy, Information Week, Jul. 4, 1994.
Max Hopper, AMR Information Services, Harvard Business Review, May/Jun. 1990, at 118.
Hopper, Max D. AMR Information Services, Harvard Business Review, May/Jun. 1990 p. 118.
Tompkins, Richard, The Financial Times (London) p. 20 Jun. 9, 1994.
Lloyd, Brenda Sabre Offers EDI Expertise Apparel Industry Magazine, v 54, N 10, p. 47
Information Week, The Online Economy Jul. 9, 1994.

ART-UNIT: 275

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Horabik; Michael

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Wong; Albert K.

ABSTRACT:

A system is disclosed in which a user's personal computer may access a variety of information regarding products and services, through a computer network, in real time. The computer network collects product/service information from various sources, such as gift stores, clothiers, computer dealers, etc. and formats the information in a recognizable manner to enable the information to be viewed by a user at the user's personal computer. The network performs a single search from a single search command from the user.

3 Claims, 4 Drawing figures



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L1: Entry 6 of 7

File: USPT

Aug 17, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5940807

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5940807 A

TITLE: Automated and independently accessible inventory information exchange system

DATE-ISSUED: August 17, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Purcell; Daniel S.	Amarillo	TX	79159	

APPL-NO: 08/ 864314 [PALM]

DATE FILED: May 28, 1997

PARENT-CASE:

RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS This patent application is a continuation of Patent Cooperation Treaty Application No. PCT/U.S. Pat. No. 97/98,750, filed May 23, 1997 in the USPTO entitled "Automated and Independently Accessible Inventory Information Exchange System" that claims priority to United States Provisional Application No. 60/018,293 filed May 24, 1996 and also entitled "Automated and Independently Accessible Inventory Information Exchange System".

INT-CL: [06] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/27, 705/28, 707/104

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/27, 705/28, 707/104.1

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/26, 705/27, 705/28, 348/13, 707/7, 707/100, 707/101, 707/104

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

	PAT-NO	ISSU DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	4799156	January 1989	Shavit et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	4992940	February 1991	Dworkin	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	5053956	October 1991	Donald et al.	395/560
<input type="checkbox"/>	5113496	May 1992	McCalley et al.	395/200
<input type="checkbox"/>	5191410	March 1993	McCalley et al.	348/13
<input type="checkbox"/>	5195092	March 1993	Wilson et al.	370/94.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	5208665	May 1993	McCalley et al.	358/86
<input type="checkbox"/>	5305195	April 1994	Murphy	705/1
<input type="checkbox"/>	5351186	September 1994	Bullock et al.	705/1
<input type="checkbox"/>	5361199	November 1994	Shoquist et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	5402336	March 1995	Spiegelhoff et al.	705/8
<input type="checkbox"/>	5406475	April 1995	Kouchi et al.	705/8
<input type="checkbox"/>	5440479	August 1995	Hutton	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	5451998	September 1995	Hamrick	348/13
<input type="checkbox"/>	5485370	January 1996	Moss et al.	395/200.47
<input type="checkbox"/>	5740425	April 1998	Povilus	707/100
<input type="checkbox"/>	5758328	May 1998	Giovannoli	705/26

ART-UNIT: 271

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Cosimano; Edward R.

ABSTRACT:

A method for controlling the collection, processing and dissemination of information by a host regarding product and service availability. The method includes the steps of establishing a host operated information management system wherein the information management system is a computer having information processing and storage capabilities. The host also has electronic communication connections such as modems that permit third parties to electronically connect with the information management system for exchanging information therewith. Host approved sellers of products and services are granted limited electronic access to the information management system so that each approved seller then has a self-initiated capability to exclusively access that seller's inventory information that is maintained on the information management system for adding, amending and deleting portions of the seller's inventory information. The seller's inventory information is analyzed and assimilated into a buyers listing of products and services available through the information management system to potential buyers. Host approved buyers of products and services are granted limited electronic access to the information management system so that each approved buyer has a self-initiatable capability to access the buyers listing for reviewing products and services of interest to that buyer. Within the information management system, the capability is provided for a purchase transaction to be initiated by an approved buyer who electronically designates a product or service of interest for purchase from the buyers listing.

17 Claims, 3 Drawing figures

End of Result Set



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L1: Entry 7 of 7

File: USPT

Feb 12, 1991

US-PAT-NO: 4992940

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 4992940 A

TITLE: System and method for automated selection of equipment for purchase through input of user desired specifications

DATE-ISSUED: February 12, 1991

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Dworkin; Ross E.	Parkside	PA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
H-Renee, Incorporated	Wallingford	PA			02

APPL-NO: 07/ 322105 [PALM]

DATE FILED: March 13, 1989

INT-CL: [05] G06F 15/21

US-CL-ISSUED: 364/401; 364/408, 235/383

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 235/383

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 364/401, 364/406, 364/408, 235/383

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	3757037	September 1973	Bialek	364/900
<input type="checkbox"/>	4645873	February 1987	Chomet	379/95
<input type="checkbox"/>	4775935	October 1988	Yourick	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	4799156	January 1989	Shavit et al.	364/401

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

"Toucheon Interactive Videodisc Catalog Markets Furniture at Dayton's"; News and Notes-Videodisc, vol. 5, No. 5 Oct. 1985.

ART-UNIT: 238

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Fleming; Michael R.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: es; Gail O.

ABSTRACT:

An automated system assists a user in locating and purchasing goods or services sold by a plurality of vendors. The system includes a programmed computer which is linked to a database. The database contains information about a large number of different products and/or services, arranged in various categories. For each product or service, the database contains information on price, vendor, specifications and/or availability. In operating the system, the user first indicates the general type of product or service desired. The system responds by displaying a template giving specifications for the type of product or service selected. The user then fills in one or more blank spaces in the template, to tell the system the minimum desired specifications for the product or service. The computer then searches the database to retrieve all products or services, within the product or service category selected, having the specifications required by the user. The system display such products or services to the user, who can request more detailed information about a particular product or service, or information on vendors and prices. The user can then select one or more items for immediate purchase, and the system automatically transmits the order to the appropriate vendor.

12 Claims, 9 Drawing figures

End of Result Set



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L7: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6014644 A

TITLE: Centrally coordinated communication systems with multiple broadcast data objects and response tracking

US PATENT NO. (1):
6014644

Detailed Description Text (25):

In order to identify information that needs to be updated, embodiments within the scope of this invention may comprise means for identifying records that should be updated. Such a means may comprise, for example, a date stamp or other means to recognize the latest version of a database or a portion of a database. Alternatively, records may be compared for currency between database versions. It is, however, preferred that a simple mechanism be used in order to speed the process of maintaining a local database and keeping a local database current with respect to the central database.

Detailed Description Text (54):

After the list of suppliers has been identified, step 96 indicates that the next action is to allow the user to enter data cast information and a message body. Such a function may be performed for example, by presenting the user with a form or template having various fields that can be filled out in order to create the appropriate information. Any of the fields previously described in conjunction with data cast message 68 of FIGS. 3A and 3B may be presented to a user. Where automatic generation of an appropriate field is available, it may be preferable to present a default value in a field and allow a user to change the default value if desired. In addition, a database of past messages or data cast messages may be kept in order to allow a user to bring up a past message and copy one or more fields into the current data cast message.



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L11: Entry 1 of 7

File: USPT

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6081789 A

TITLE: Automated and independently accessible inventory information exchange system

US PATENT NO. (1):
6081789

Brief Summary Text (5):

The cornerstone of a free trade system is the ability of merchants to make the availability of their products and services known to potential purchasers. The concept of trading between sellers and buyers is well known and transactions between the two originally occurred in face-to-face meetings. Subsequently, as markets became more sophisticated, buyers and sellers turned to written documentation for both placing orders and filling orders. Of late, however, the advent of electronic transactional capabilities has made it exceedingly advantageous for businesses to automate many of their methods of doing business. Among those methods and processes is the activity of merchandising goods and services. A common goal in these automations is to increase accuracy, while at the same time reduce costs and time-frames between the initiation of a purchase and its completion.

Brief Summary Text (9):

Some sellers choose systems in which information about their merchandise is made available to potential purchasers, but it is the purchaser that originates a transaction by accessing the information and initiating a purchase. In this type of system, there is almost a 100% percent certainty that the potential purchaser at least has a need for the product, and because they are actively seeking to review available products and services that will meet their needs, they are also likely to affect and complete a purchase. The problem of such a system is providing an environment within which the providers information is conveniently deposited and held until selectively accessed by interested buyers. In a more traditional format, catalogs of merchandise available from a provider have been printed and which may in turn be requested by buyers interested in those types of products. Without some advertising of the availability of these catalogs, however, it is unlikely that many purchasers will either know about the catalog's availability, or how to order and receive one.

Brief Summary Text (12):

In each of the described patented systems, the purchaser has the ability to access information in an automated environment and review merchandise information. Orders may even be placed on these systems once the purchaser has made an appropriate selection. In each situation, however, the merchandise provider has no interactive capabilities for accessing the systems. Instead, the sellers are dependant upon information about their products and services being entered and made available by the system administrator.

Detailed Description Text (6):

In one embodiment of the invention, purchasers may place an order with the host or administrator of the system who later conveys the information to an appropriate seller. Alternatively, the purchaser may place an order directly with a specific seller based on either product criteria or seller's identification, if that is made available. In any event, both sellers and purchasers may access their sides of the system at any time; sellers may manipulate and change their inventory information and buyers may review an updated product listing that is maintained and updated on a substantially continuous basis.

Detailed Description Text (10):

The buyers will typically view the administrator of the system as a sole provider of the listed products and services, and not a representative of the plurality of sellers. In this way, the host acts as a clearing house through which information is collected from sellers and then displayed for buyers who can then place orders through the system. The administrator may

Detailed Description Text (11):

then order appropriate product and service corresponding to the buyers' requirements. In an alternative embodiment, it is anticipated that the buyers may place orders directly with the sellers and that the host receives a commission or fee for providing the information exchange service.

Detailed Description Text (12):

The system and process of the present invention may be differentiated from others presently known by its ability to serve as an administrator or host that coordinates between a sellers' domain and a buyers' domain with the interface therebetween being a site having an analyzed display of products and services available upon the system. By having the intermediary administrator, the necessity of providing interactive and simultaneous communication between the buyer and seller is eliminated. It does, however, provide continuous access to the system for both buyers and sellers. The system permits the buyer to order product and service through the administrator at any time, just as it permits sellers to access and amend their inventory information. Among the benefits of this system is that neither party on either side of the administrator need be logged into the system at the same time. This benefits all users in that the schedule of each may be accommodated and business can be transacted across multiple time zones from any point across the globe having connective capabilities. It further benefits the sellers in that exposure is provided to customers who have a defined need for the sellers' products and who are seeking at least information of the nature maintained on the system. From the buyers perspective, the exchange system eliminates the need to solicit information from multiple providers and permits them to review analyzed and organized information about relevant products of interest.

Detailed Description Text (13):

It is anticipated that this system may be provided on any electronic medium capable of providing a means for limiting access to a plurality of authorized users. It is contemplated that an appropriate host system may be a dedicated computer having dial-up and on-line capabilities, as well as computational capabilities. In a preferred embodiment, however, the system is administered in an Internet environment wherein a host site serves as the administrator and both buyers and sellers are permitted access to the site based on authorized access codes. Information for transacting actual purchases may be exchanged outside of this system in a more traditional manner of placing an order by either telephone, telecopy, or mail service from the sellers to the administrator. It is anticipated, however, that the host site will accommodate direct orders on-line by the purchaser.